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## Exploration and Discovery

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### THE RYLANDS PAPYRI

The newly published volume of Rylands Papyri (*Greek Papyri in the John Rylands Library*, Manchester, Vol. I), edited by Arthur S. Hunt (1911), contains sixty literary pieces, ranging in date from the first century before Christ to the sixth century of our era. Twelve of these are biblical or Christian. There are three papyri of parts of the Septuagint Old Testament (Deut., Job, Psalms) and two of parts of the New Testament (Rom., chap. 12, and Titus, chaps. 1, 2). This last was written in the third century, and so ranks with the Oxyrhynchus Matthew and John in age. An interesting hymn (sixth century) and several liturgical fragments, together with a certificate of pagan sacrifice from the Decian persecution (A.D. 250), the sixth such document thus far published, complete this remarkable group of Christian papyri.

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### THE AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO CYRENE

Wide attention has recently been drawn to the American expedition to Cyrene by the tragic fate of one of the leaders of the expedition, Mr. H. F. DeCou, who was shot by disaffected Arabs on March 11, 1911. The great promise of Cyrene as a virgin field for excavation has long been suspected, and in recent years definitely affirmed, as a result perhaps of some hours spent at the spot by a party of scholars a few years ago. The place is difficult of access, and the dangers from the ignorant and fanatical native population have been clear from the first. Richard Norton, the director of the present expedition, landed at Bengazi, North Africa, in May, 1910, and with an escort of soldiers and a small caravan of animals, made a journey of several days along the coast, eastward, through Tokra and Merdj, to Cyrene. This preliminary and exploratory visit was followed in the autumn of 1910 by the commencement of operations at Cyrene. Work began on October 29, and continued through the winter. Brief preliminary reports in the *Bulletin of the Archaeological Institute* show that remains of spacious Roman and Greek buildings were immediately uncovered. Notwithstanding the lamentable death of Mr. DeCou work is to be resumed this coming autumn. The vast proportions of the ancient city offer an unlimited field for work, and the expedition promises much for the archaeology of New Testament, as well as earlier, times.